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Dated: April 9, 2010 Signature: 

(Jeremy R. Krieger)

**PATENT  
31118/DY0206**

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Patent Application of: Vandermeulen, et al.

Application No.: 10/540,548

Confirmation No.: 7189

Filed: July 15, 2004

Art Unit: 2854

**(U.S. National Phase of PCT/EP03/14992,  
International filing date July 15, 2004)**

For: VALIDATION OF CONSUMABLES

Examiner: Marini

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT ACCOMPANYING RCE**

MS Amendments  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

This Preliminary Amendment Accompanying a Request for Continued Examination is in response to the final Office Action mailed on December 9, 2009.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the Listing of Claims that begins on page 2 of this Preliminary Amendment.

The **Remarks** section begins on page 12 of this Preliminary Amendment.